Appl. No. 10/796,402 Amdt. sent February 24, 2005 Reply to Office Action of November 29, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 5, 6, 8, and 10-20.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for allegedly being anticipated by Johansson, U.S. Patent No. 5,587,685.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by Goerke et al., U. S. Patent No. 5,698,973.

Claims 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Goerke et al., in a view of Johansson, U.S. Patent No. 5,587,685.

It is noted with appreciation that claims 11-20 are allowed, and further that claims 9 and 10 are deemed to recite allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-4 have been canceled without prejudice, and so the rejection of claims 1-4 is moot.

Independent claim 5 and its dependent claims 6-10

Claim 9, which is deemed to be allowable, depends from claim 7. Claim 7, in turn, depends from independent claim 5. The subject matter recited in claims 9 and 7 have been incorporated into claim 5. Consequently, claim 5 is believed to be allowable. Claims 7 and 9 have been canceled accordingly. The dependency of claim 10 has been amended accordingly. Claims 5, 6, 8, and 10 are believed to be allowable.

Appl. No. 10/796,402 Amdt. sent February 24, 2005 Reply to Office Action of November 29, 2004

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, all claims now pending in this Application are believed to be in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

George B. F. Yee Reg. No. 37,478

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor San Francisco, California 94111-3834

Tel: 650-326-2400 Fax: 415-576-0300

GBFY:cmm 60383115 v1